

# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Tom Montgomery  
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

*Twenty-fifth Sunday of the Year 23rd September page 135 of the Mass Book*

Do you know the fairy tale which has the words: ‘Mirror, mirror on the wall, who’s the fairest of them all?’? The evil Queen puts this question to her magic mirror every morning as she looks at herself. And, of course, the answer is always: ‘You are!’ until Snow White appears on the scene. The rest of the story unfolds...

In our Gospel reading today from St. Mark, the disciples are arguing not about ‘the fairest’ but about ‘the greatest’! We are not told who wins the competition! It really does seem so strange that the followers of Jesus, now in Galilee where they had experienced the Lord’s calling, and hearing Jesus’ second prediction of his Death and Resurrection, can only focus on themselves. As they look figuratively at themselves in the mirror they are absorbed in who they are and their achievements. Christ offers them a vision of the Suffering Servant, the Son of Man delivered into the hands of men. To reinforce the imagery he then sets before them an innocent child who for him is the paradigm of greatness because, in welcoming a child, Jesus insists, his disciples will be welcoming him and, in turn, the One who sent him - God our Father! Jesus’ huge sacrifice and the power of Divine Love revealed in him is no fairy tale! At the heart of our Faith is the reality of God who is so close to us and who wants everyone to be saved. This God has planted in us a seed of life and his only desire is that we should water it, nurture it and let it bear fruit for eternity.

I am sure that you will be looking at yourself in the mirror many times this week. Stare hard and look for signs of Christ. See if the revelation of the Father’s love for you is being revealed. Reflect on whether those you are encountering are having a glimpse of greatness! Then give glory to God! If things are not turning out as you expect, don’t worry. Make a fresh start buoyed up with the healing, forgiving grace which emanates from the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Have a good and fruitful week!

*Fr. Norbert*

**OPEN PARISH MEETING** 55 people attended last Tuesday's meeting. Minutes will be available in due course. Our thanks to all who contributed to the discussions as well as those who gave presentations. There was plenty to think about and actions which will be required. The financial accounts of our three parishes are now at the back of each church.

**OUR LADY'S HALL** The Hall will close at the end of this month. All the groups which regularly use it have been notified. The Family Centre has played a huge part in the life of the Catholic Community and the Town. Many socialised there when they came to the Garden City. A large number met their spouses there and their children made lifelong friends in the Centre. For others it served as a venue for Wedding Receptions and Funeral Receptions. There have been dances, pantomimes, concerts and plays. A huge amount of charitable work and fundraising has taken place. Our thanks to Fr. Michael Groarke for his vision all those years ago and to the priests and committee members who have given of themselves to serve the wider Community. In recent years there has been the Pomegranate Café and many social occasions flowing from the celebration of Mass. To mark the completion of this chapter, there will be a Get-together in the Lounge on Saturday 6th October after 6pm Mass. Please bring food to share. Those coming are invited to bring photos and mementos and thus have a chance to catch up with others and give thanks to God for all the blessings received.

**SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER** Fr. Norbert urges parent/s to visit Secondary Schools with their child and to reflect on which school will help their child flourish. For those applying to Catholic Schools a Certificate of Catholicity is required which affirms that a child comes from a practising Catholic family, i.e. a family which attends Mass every week. It is crucial to read a school's admissions policy to see if your child has a good chance of getting in. Fr. Norbert will be available in October to sign the Certificate of Catholicity Forms: Wednesday 10th 4.00 - 6.00pm, Monday 15th 4.00 - 6.30pm and Tuesday 23rd 4.00 - 6.30pm. Please make an appointment with Kathryn Hubbard for a 10-minute slot. Parent/s and child should come to Our Lady's Church and wait to be called. In due course there will be the 'extra' form at the back of our churches which will need to be filled and brought to the meeting.

**RCIA** Are you interested in joining the Catholic Church or knowing more? Are you a Catholic adult who missed out on Confirmation when you were younger? Now's the time to think about the next steps! Pray. Talk to another Catholic. Come to Church and deepen your experience of being with others. The first session for our three parishes will be on Monday 1st October at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

**CONFIRMATION** Enrolment of young people for Confirmation will be in Holy Family Church on Sunday 21st October at 7pm. Young people should be at least in Year 9 at school. Parents are asked to come to this meeting with their son or daughter. The meeting will last one hour.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** Enrolment for St. Bonaventure's First Confession and First Holy Communion will be in the Parish Hall of St. Bonaventure's on Saturday 13th October at 11am. The children's sessions are once a month on a Saturday and will begin the following Saturday (20th October). Enrolment for Our Lady's Church will be on Tuesday 27th November at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Church (children do not have to attend); the sessions are on a Sunday morning starting in the new year. Enrolment for Holy Family Church will be on Sunday 2nd December after 9.30 Mass. (Holy Family's sessions begin in the new year and are usually after school midweek).

**PRAYER SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE** Saturday 3rd November 12.00 at St Bonaventure's. We would like to invite you and your family and friends to join us for a short Service of Prayer to remember our loved ones who have died and comfort for all who mourn them. Tea/coffee and a chance to meet after the Service in the Parish Hall. The Bereavement Group

**VACANCY** Holy Family School requires Meal Supervisors to work lunchtimes in the dining hall. Please contact 01707 375518 for an application pack.

**MARY BOREHAM RIP** Mary's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Thursday 4th October at 12.30pm. Her body will be received into the church on the Wednesday at 4.30pm.

**OUR LADY SCHOOL NURSERY** still has vacancies - contact the school if you are interested in a place 01707 324408 or just visit the school office.

**CAMINO** from Opporto to Santiago de Compostella Saturday 25th May - Sunday 2nd June 2019. Brochures with booking forms are at the back of our churches. If you would like one emailed to you, please contact Fr. Norbert on [welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk) 25 pilgrims have signed up already. Pax Travel can take up to 41 in all, so send in your booking forms soon!

**The CAFOD** group are holding a Charity Car Park at Oaklands college on 29th September. If you need to go into the town centre on that day please please give us your support. Parking is only £1 per visit.

**HCPT 2019** Each year Group 183 takes children with additional needs on a life changing pilgrimage holiday to Lourdes, but this can only happen with the help of volunteers. The Group is now 5 years old and has been extremely fortunate to have been welcomed into the WGC parishes with open arms. In order for us to continue with this great work we desperately need more helpers to join the group. We travel at Easter for a week, helpers will need to be able to attend training and safeguarding before the trip, as well as time getting to know their child before travel. They will also have to be able to pay for their own travel. If this is some thing you feel you may be able to do, please contact Emma at [group183@hcpt.org.uk](mailto:group183@hcpt.org.uk) or phone on 07740858313

**BLESSING OF GRAVES** Sunday 11th November at 1.30pm Hatfield Hyde. Sunday 18th November at 2pm Southway. Sunday 25th November 2pm at Welwyn New Cemetery.

**AN OPEN DOOR TO SYRIA** 5th October (Friday) 8pm-9.30pm Focolare Centre for Unity. As many of you know, in July I went to Syria to support the community there. Now I would love to share with you how it went. Do feel free to come along and discover the life of our friends now in this amazing country. Sylwia.

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASSES** Saturday 20th October and Saturday 8th December at 6pm at Our Lady's Church.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION** Any couples wishing to get married in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere should speak to Fr. Norbert so that the necessary preparations can be made. The Marriage Preparation Day will be on Saturday 23rd March 2019.

**CALLING YOUNG ADULTS** Following on from the successful series of events in the lead up to the Synod on Youth in October, the first post-synod event with Cardinal Vincent reflecting on the Synod in Rome, will take place at Archbishop's House on Tuesday 30th October, 7 to 8.30pm. Free to attend for young adults aged 18-35. For bookings, email [youth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:youth@rcdow.org.uk) or visit [dowym.com](http://dowym.com). It would be brilliant to have young adults representing WGC at this meeting

**TRANSPORT TO MASS SERVICE** Several parishioners are now being given regular lifts to the Mass of their choice by our volunteer drivers. If you know of anybody in need of transport or feel you could offer a regular or occasional service as a driver please fill in a yellow or pink form at the back of each church. Thank you.

**DATES** Day Pilgrimage with the Deaf to Walsingham Saturday 18th May. Trip to Canterbury Cathedral with Christian Churches of WGC Saturday 15th June 2019. Service in the Crypt, Guided Tours, picnic lunch, free (shopping!) time and Evensong. in Cathedral. Keep the dates free!

**SEMINARIAN** Rémy Pignal from the Diocese of St. Denis (Paris, France) has asked to visit 22nd - 26th October; he will be ordained a deacon next year.

**SEASON OF CREATION** Thanks to those who came to the screening of Leonardo DiCaprio's documentary film Before the Flood last Saturday. People said they found it interesting and thought provoking. If you missed out and want to know more about the environment and climate change you can watch it on Netflix or by going to <http://bit.ly/before-the-flood-film>

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 Our Lady's Church  
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**Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579**  
**parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk**  
 St. Bonaventure's Church  
 81 Parkway AL8 6J

**Fr. Tom 01707 327434**  
**welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk**  
 Holy Family Church  
 194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

**CONFESSIONS**

Holy Family: Thursday **10am**  
 St. Bonaventure: Saturday **10.30am -11am**  
 Our Lady's: Saturday **5pm -5.30pm.**

**Website for our 3 parishes**  
**www.wgc-catholics.org.uk**

**ST ALBANS** Every Friday at St. Albans Abbey-Cathedral a Catholic Mass is celebrated at 12 noon. You are all welcome. Fr. Norbert will be the celebrant on 5th October.

**HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL** Thank you to the children and staff of Holy Family School for leading last Sunday's Mass to mark Education Sunday. It was much appreciated

**ALTAR SERVERS MASS** The National Altar Servers Mass will take place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 6th October at 2.30pm. Fr. Norbert invites the servers of our three parishes to this celebration. Servers will need to be accompanied by a parent. We will get 12.52 train from Welwyn Garden City Station and come back around 5.30pm. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are interested and give him your details.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP** 3.45 - 4.45pm in St. Bonaventure's hall. This week we go to McDonalds for tea. Meet in hall at usual time.

**MISSIO / APF Red Boxes at Our Lady's.** It is that time of year when we collect in the Red Boxes and bank your donations. If you are able to bring your box to church in the next couple of weeks we will empty it, bank the contributions, and then return the box to you as soon as possible. Thank you all again for your support and generosity.

**MASS TIMES**

|              |        |      |                 |                                 |
|--------------|--------|------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 24 Monday    | 9.30am | Mass | Our Lady's      | Our Lady of Walsingham          |
| 25 Tuesday   | 9.30am | Mass | St. Bonaventure | feria                           |
|              | 7pm    | Mass | Our Lady's      |                                 |
| 26 Wednesday | 9.30am | Mass | Holy Family     | SS Cosmas and Damien            |
| 27 Thursday  | 9.30am | Mass | Holy Family     | St. Vincent de Paul             |
| 28 Friday    | 9.30am | Mass | St. Bonaventure | feria                           |
|              | 7pm    | Mass | Our Lady's      |                                 |
| 29 Saturday  | 10am   | Mass | St. Bonaventure | SS Michael, Gabriel and Raphael |

**Twenty-sixth Sunday of the Year**

|                    |                |      |                 |
|--------------------|----------------|------|-----------------|
| <b>29 Saturday</b> | <b>6pm</b>     | Mass | Our Lady's      |
| <b>30 Sunday</b>   | <b>8am</b>     | Mass | St. Bonaventure |
|                    | <b>9.30am</b>  | Mass | Holy Family     |
|                    | <b>10.30am</b> | Mass | St. Bonaventure |
|                    | <b>11.30am</b> | Mass | Our Lady's      |
|                    | <b>6pm</b>     | Mass | Holy Family     |



**CHAPLAIN TO THE Q.E.II AND LISTER HOSPITALS:** If you are going into hospital and need a Catholic Chaplain contact **Chaplaincy Office Tel: 01438 285138 (24/7) Urgent need: 01438 314 333 via text message: 07876 526935 email: chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net**